

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1554/09
by Hans-Peter Mayer (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Romanian draft law 368/2007

A question put to me by Father Ioan-Irineu Farcas of the Romanian Catholic mission in 80331 Munich brought the following matter to my attention. Three members of the Romanian Parliament, Ioan Oltean, Augustin Zegrean and Daniel Buda, are attempting to pass draft law 368/2007 on the legal status of property owned by the Orthodox and Greek-Catholic (United) Church through the Romanian Chamber of Deputies. This draft law would violate the right to property and religious freedom. Among other things it lays down that, where people change from one church to another, the property of the parish will be transferred to the new church in proportion to the number of people leaving the old church, which is a reference to a fragment of Communist-era law No 177 of 1948, repealed in 2007.

What information does the Commission have on this matter? Does the Commission consider that the right to property and religious freedom is guaranteed in Romania?